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Agricultural Memorandum No.589

Approximate formula for water loss from fallow land

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Agricultural Memorandum 588a suggested the approximate formula for the loss of water by evaporation from soil remaining fallow throughout the summer, $0.5R^{1} + 109$ mm, where R^{1} is the total 6 month rainfall with the maximum for any one month being the Potential Evaporation. If PE averages are used (P.T average plus 25%), giving R^{11}, the equation becomes $0.5R^{11} + 107$ mm.

Tested on Goole and Cranwell 1959-1968, the mean error was 15.5 mm with a distribution

10 mm or below	9 occasions
10-20 mm	5 occasions
20-30 mm	4 occasions

with two maximum errors of +33 and -36 mm.

On 17 out of 20 occasions the error was less than 1 inch.

Working in inches of rain, the approximation would be half the effective rainfall (R^{11}) plus 4.

Any comments or suggestions on this paper should be referred to the author.

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